

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: September 24, 2019
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Eileen Vining, Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Heidi and Ari Zorn, Steve Cohen, Alina Hsu, Helen Krancer, Gregory Cherin, Susan Bachelder, Ed Regendahl, Nick Keene, Blake Mensing, Steve and Liz Pennisi.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meetings were accepted with edits:

September 10, 2019
September 13, 2019
September 17, 2019

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Attorney Blake Mensing presented Steve Pinezy, President of Sparkboro Corporation, and the corporation's plans to open a marijuana cultivation and manufacturing business at 17 Sky Farm Road in Egremont. Attorney Mensing wants to proceed with the Host Community Agreement before applying for the special permit. Chairman McGurn made clear his skepticism about this strategy.

After discussion the Board voted to ask Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard to initiate negotiations for said agreement with Attorney Mensing.

Chairman McGurn gave instruction that items brought up under Citizens Time and Town Officials will not be discussed until a subsequent meeting.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

No one spoke.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Alina Hsu presented the Board with a letter that she had emailed to the Board just before the meeting time so it had not been seen by two members and printed out but not read by Chairman McGurn. She asked that this letter and the topic of "accountability meeting between Conservation Commission and Selectboard" be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board decided to not place a sign on the tennis courts that reads Tennis Shoes Only and bans by picture such things as skateboards, bikes, roller blades and dogs. The court entryways will be padlocked when the nets are removed for the winter.

Ari Zorn expressed concern that skateboards could potentially damage the surface of the new courts.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board voted to sign the marijuana host community agreement with New Green, Ari and Heidi Zorn, for its 71 Main Street location.

All agreed that the recent Special Town Meeting was straight forward with good, and civil, debate. The voting went very smoothly. Moderator Steve Cohen was thanked for his role in how well the meeting went.

The Board has reviewed the Route 23/41 plans and will be making several comments to MassDOT. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen reported on the utility related meeting earlier September 24 which included MassDOT representatives, the engineer, and representatives from both National Grid and Verizon. 28 Main Street poles will need to be moved back from 1 to 2 feet. Two trees across from the Old Mill will be removed and new ones planted. The Egremont Village Inn may be asked by the Town to remove some of the White Pines growing on their property to clear the line of site up Route 23 when turning onto Creamery Road. MassDOT is holding firm on no roundabouts due to the large truck traffic volume. The median at Creamery is not a raised one. They were all made aware of the strong position of the Town on the raised sidewalks in front of the Spirit Shoppe, Mom's, Old Mill and the Yoga shop. Besides parking issues for customers to those businesses, delivery trucks will not be able to park if a raised sidewalk is installed. The 25% design hearing will likely be no earlier than January, 2020.

The need to re-appoint Police Officers on a yearly basis will be researched.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The first draft of the Agreement with Fiber Connect was approved by the Board. There are just a couple of items still to finalize. MBI won't be acting on the Fiber Connect application until its November meeting.

The fence installation at the South Egremont School is still on target for the first week of November. A private committee has formed to get an "organic" playground installed at the school house and to raise the funds to do so. Susan Bachelder reported that the blinds aren't working at the school house and the teacher is concerned. This information will be passed onto the district.

It was noted that the new 911 numbering system in the Town of Mount Washington should be completed and a time table will be requested.

The Executive Office of Community and Development has notified the Town that it cannot extend the Small Housing Choice grant beyond June 30, 2020. The funds left in the grant are for the septic installation. Construct's Attorney is conversing with Board of Health Director Juliette Haas about this as Director Haas is requiring home owner association rules be drafted prior to her review of the septic design plans. Construct is contending that the rules are not needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.